



Image from Nonverbal World

Christopher Bernard

Impostor Syndrome

Who are you? Where do you live?
What is your name? Where is your home?
Who are your parents? Who is your boss?
How did you pay for this? Why do you live?

What are you? Where do you come from?
How much do you make? Do you own your own house?
What have you done with your life? Do you know?
Why should I believe you? Why should I not?

How did it happen? Did you take a wrong turn?
Were you swindled, seduced, or just made a fool of?
Are you always this nice? Are you always this cruel?
Who made you do it? Is there anyone you love?

Which one is you? The chaotic adolescent?
The feckless lover? The treacherous adult?
The gaga old woman? The abandoned child?
Why are you crying? Why have you stopped?

Christopher Bernard is founder and co-editor of *Caveat Lector*. His collection of poems *The Socialist's Garden of Verses* won a PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in 2021.